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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MALTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

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MALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1944.

This report is drawn up according to the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

Area (in acres) 4,016.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-year 1937, 4143.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Books, 1180.

Rateable Value and sum represented by a penny rate £29,100 and £111 respectively.

The Social conditions are those of a small market town where the population is in part residential and in part business and working class these latter being chiefly dependent upon the surrounding agricultural districts.

There are no very large employers of labour, the most important being two Breweries, an Agricultural Implement Maker and a Manure Factory.

None of these have any particular influence upon public health.

The following are some extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Total	60	28	32
	Legitimate	54	23	31
	Illegitimate	6	5	1
		Total	M.	F.
Still Births	Total	2	0	2
	Legitimate	2	0	2
	Illegitimate	0	0	0

Our Birthrate works out at 16·6 per thousand civilian population as against 17·6 for England and Wales.

Deaths from all causes were :-

	Total	M.	F.
		23	23
These included :			
Non-pulmonary T.B.		1	0
Influenza		0	1
Cancer		5	1
Heart Disease		8	7

Our Death Rate works out at 12·7 per 1000 population as against 11·6 for England and Wales.

The Balance of Births over Deaths is therefore, not in our favour, consequently our population tends to fall, a fall which has of course, been accelerated by the war years and which is perhaps partly due to the fact that the younger generation has to seek its livelihood elsewhere.

One Legitimate Male died under 1 year of age.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following were notified :-

Scarlet Fever. 5 sporadic cases over the 12 months, 11 of which were treated at the Emergency Isolation Hospital at Norton Grove and one at home.

Diphtheria.	1 aged 9 years. F.
Whooping Cough.	1 boy, 1 girl in same family.
Measles.	1 boy, 1 girl in same family.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 45 children under 5 years were immunised and 8 over 5.

Owing to the shortage of staff etc., it has not been possible to make the usual routine immunisation of the schoolchildren and of those done the majority have been done at the Infant Welfare Clinic or by the local Doctors at their Surgery.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

   (A) Medical—One part-time Medical Officer who is also Public Vaccinator.

   (B) One whole-time Sanitary Inspector (General) who is also Surveyor.

   (C) One Veterinary Surgeon for Meat Inspection.

2. Nursing in the Home.

(A) General. The District Nursing Association is run by voluntary subscriptions and provides two nurses for general (non-infectious) cases.

(B) Infectious diseases can be provided for in special circumstances.

3. Midwives.

Miss Dawson and Miss Finlayson now act as District Nurses and as Midwives and are responsible for the Urban District together with certain of the parishes in the Malton Rural District.

4. Laboratory Facilities are obtainable free to all suitable cases the work being done by the Clinical Research Association, London and the North Riding Laboratory, Scarborough. Good use is made of these facilities particularly in regard to swabs of the throat in cases of suspected Diphtheria, in regard to sputum in tuberculosis and in regard to blood tests, etc.

5. Hospitals.

The following supply the needs of the area :-
Malton and Norton District Hospital (General) - 30 beds, Leeds General Infirmary, York County Hospital and the Yorkshire Orthopaedic Hospital, situated at Kirbymoorside.

6. The only provision made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children is that made by the Ryedale Guardians Committee at the Institution at Kirbymoorside (for adults and children) and the Children's Home at Pickering (for the children).

7. Mental Defectives are also cared for by the Guardians Committee if adults and mild cases : the children are sent away for special training in suitable cases.

8. Ambulance facilities are provided.

(a) For infectious cases by the Isolation Hospital.

(b) For others and accidents, by the Town Motor Ambulance, assitance being freely and regularly given by voluntary drivers and St. John Ambulance Brigade.

9. Clinics and Treatment Centres.
A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is held on the 1st Wednesday in each month at the Friends' Meeting House, Greengate.

School Clinics } are held at regular
Orthopaedic Clinics } intervals.

Tuberculosis Dispensary at Scarborough.

Treatment centre for Venereal Diseases at Scarborough and York.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The Water plant continued to give efficient service and the water is of good quality.

The whole supply is chlorinated and softened to 6 or 7 degrees.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The new Sewage Scheme now ensures a good sewerage service for every house except those where the sanitary accommodation consists of a "pail closet." Conversion of these conveniences in hand prior to the outbreak of hostilities has been suspended but it is hoped that the work may be resumed in 1945.

HOUSING.

During the year, new building was entirely suspended but the Council and officials were actively engaged in formulating a post-war housing programme envisaging in all some 170 houses.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat inspection as in pre-war days is in the hands of the local Veterinary Surgeon.

All slaughtering is done at the Public Abattoir, where regular inspections of all meat supplies are made.

SCAVENGING.

Despite all other calls made on the department it was still found possible to render throughout the area a weekly collection of household refuse and "night soil."

Disposal is by burning in an incinerator and tipping the residue on the adjoining land.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the Council accepted delegation of powers under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919 which were previously vested in the County Council.

A Rodent Operative was appointed in a full time capacity and at the close of the year had cleaned many long standing infestations.

CONCLUSION.

During the year, while every effort was made to maintain at full efficiency the various services of the Council, Civil Defence Committees of a wide and varied nature kept the department fully employed and under-staffed and left no time for furthering prospects of improvement in hand at the outbreak of hostilities.

In October, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. A. Jackson died. He had rendered very many years service to the Council and will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues.

During the vacancy the Department is being supervised generally by the Clerk of the Council, Mr. W. J. Little. The Norton Urban District Council kindly offered the services of their Sanitary Inspector, Mr. T. Forrest as and when required, and this was accepted with appeciation.

During the year the general health of the district was somewhat above the average and there were no diseases of epidemic proportions and few notifiable cases occurred.

		M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total ...	1	0
	Legitimate ...	1	0
	Illegitimate ...	0	0

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Total ...	60	28	32
	Legitimate ...	54	23	31
	Illegitimate ...	6	5	1
Still Births	Total ...	2	0	2
	Legitimate ...	2	0	2
	Illegitimate ...	0	0	0

POPULATION ... 4,143.

L.C. WALKER, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.